Medical facilities in rural areas

533. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distance of most villages from the nearest hospital is about 10 to 15 kilometers; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to provide more medical facilities in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) At present, there are 1,37,311 sub-centres, 22,482 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 3034 Community Health Centres (CHCs) functioning in the country. As per information available a Sub-centre, PHC and CHC covers an average of 5400, 32469 and 2.44 lakh people within a radius of 3, 7 and 18 kms respectively. Targets for opening new sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs are set by the Planning Commission to be achieved during the Five Year Plan period. Accordingly, during the X Five Year Plan, it is expected that additionally 8181 sub-centres, 1714 PHCs and 2562 CHCs will be established which will enable reaching the norm as per 1991 population.

Population explosion in Himachal Pradesh

534. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of various family planning measures adopted in Himachal Pradesh to control the population explosion in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce in the State new method adopted in foreign countries in the field of family planning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The measures adopted to control population by Government have shown favourable results in the State of Himachal Pradesh. As per the estimates of Sample Registration System, the Total Fertility Rate has come down from 3.1 in 1991 to 2.4 in 1999. The Crude Birth Rate has come down from 28.5 in 1991 to 22.1 in 2000.

(c) and (d) During the current year, the Government of India has introduced the following internationally accepted methods in the filed of family planning in the state.

(i) Copper-T 380A

(ii) Emergency Contraception Pills for females.

Proliferation of Spurious Drugs

535. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proliferation of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government do not have adequate machinery to check proliferation of spurious drugs; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen control mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per feedback available from the State licensing authorities during the period 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2202, 35570, 36947 and 34574 samples were tested and out of which 115, 112 and 98 samples were found spurious respectively. Thus, there does not appear to be proliferation of spurious drugs in the country.

(c) and (d) As per the feedbeack available from the State licensing authorities, there are 812 drugs inspectors in position in the country. Besides there are 21 labs available in 19 States/UTs. and 4 Central labs to validate the quality of drugs manufactured and sold in the market.

Central Government have taken following steps to strengthen the control mechanism.

(i) Assistance to State Governments to augment the infrastructure of drug control organization. During the 8th & 9th Plan Budget, Rs. 12 crores were released as grant under Cnetral Sponsored Scheme to the States/UTs for purchase of drug testing equipments or construction of their laboratory building.In order